GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4740
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2016
Strengthening of MGNREGS
Premachandran Shri N.K.

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to strengthen Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS);

(b) if so, the initiatives of the Government to provide sufficient infrastructure facility for implementation of the scheme as per the guidelines;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to revise the guidelines for asset creation considering the special situation of each State and if so, the action taken thereon;

(d) whether the Government proposes to relax the existing criteria for implementation of the scheme considering the requests from the State Governments and if so, the details thereof and the action taken on the request of State of Kerala in this regard;

(e) whether the Government proposes to increase the wages considering the high living cost and if so, the details thereof; and

(f) whether the Government also proposes to ensure more working days and if so, the action taken thereon?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV)

(a) & (b): The Government has taken adequate steps to strengthen implementation of MGNREGA from time to time. The details of major steps taken in this regard is given in Annexure.

(c) & (d): The Guidelines of MGNREGA are modified in consultation with the States/ UTs from time to time based on feedback received from States/UTs and other stakeholders. The suggestions received from States/UTs including Kerala are examined in the light of aims and objective of the Act. The Ministry issues guidelines, advisories and manuals on works under MGNREGA as and when required. The works which are non-tangible, not measurable and repetitive are not permitted.

(e): The wages of workers under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) are protected against inflation by Indexation with the Consumer Price Index for Agricultural Labour (CPI-AL). MGNREGA wage rate are linked with State-wise CPI-AL which is revised on yearly basis and implemented during the financial year in States/UTs.

(f) The Act provides for at least 100 days of wage employment to every rural household whose adult members are willing to do unskilled manual work. Forest Right Act (FRA) beneficiaries are entitled to maximum of 150 days of work per household in one Financial Year.
However, 50 days of additional employment over and above 100 days per household under MGNREGA are made in the notified drought affected areas of the States on recommendation of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.
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Annexure referred to in reply to part (a)&(b) of Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 4740 dated 15.12.2016.

Major steps taken by the Government to improve the programme implementation under MGNREGA

Better planning and asset identification

â€¢ An Intensive Participatory Planning Exercise (IPPE) /Mission Antyodaya has been launched in 2569 most backward blocks. This exercise has helped in identifying better quality assets that need to be created.
â€¢ For improving convergence with the line departments, and thereby to improve the quality of assets, the State Convergence Plans have been formulated.
â€¢ Further Natural Resource Management based planning is being strengthened in convergence with Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and other related departments like Department of land Resources.
â€¢ To improve the transparency in implementation and enhance the visibility of assets created under MGNREGS the Ministry has launched GIS implementation of MGNREGS under GeoMGNREGA. All assets created under MGNREGS are being geo-tagged and referenced on GIS maps and are being made available in the public domain in a phased way.

Improving the quality of works

â€¢ The associated outcomes of each work are being recorded before taking up the work, and the same is being measured after completion of the work-thereby bringing in more focus on outcomes.
â€¢ Ministry has conducted training of Technical Resource Persons from the States/UTs on different technical aspects of works which can be taken up under the scheme. States have been asked to train Block resource persons and district resource persons to from technical teams.
â€¢ The States/UTs have been asked to deploy State Quality Monitors to inspect the quality of assets created under the Scheme.
â€¢ States have been advised to engage technical assistants/barefoot engineers for better technical planning and supervision of works under MGNREG.

Better transparency, accountability and grievance redressal

â€¢ States/UTs have been asked to strengthen Social audits of MGNREGS works in accordance with the provisions of the Audit of Schemes Rules 2011 issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India. Social Audit Action Plan has been formulated and shared with States.
â€¢ All States have been requested to set up an independent Social Audit Unit (SAU) and appoint Ombudsman at the district level for grievance redressal.
â€¢ The Ministry has established a comprehensive system of monitoring and review mechanism for MGNREGA, which, inter alia, include visits of the Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors.
â€¢ With a view to avoid bogus attendance and to check instances of tempering and misuse of muster rolls, the e-Muster system has been introduced.

Fund management and avoiding delays in payment
For ensuring timely payment of wages, the Central Government has started National Electronic Fund Management System (NeFMS) in 21 States and 1 UT. Other states and UTs will be brought in to the fold in course of time. The system is likely to reduce unnecessary parking of funds in the states and promote greater transparency in fund management.

Monitoring and Review Mechanism

â€¢ The Scheme is regularly reviewed in the Performance Review Committee meetings, Video conferences and Regional Review meetings. State specific reviews are also undertaken from time to time. Officers of the Ministry and National Level Monitors also visit various districts to oversee the performance of MGNREGA.